

REMARKS

Examiner Tolan is thanked for the courtesy extended during the Office Interview on March 16, 2010.

The Interview Summary is believed to accurately reflect what was discussed and agreed to during the Interview.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-22 and 25-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kanemitsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,484,547), the rejection of Claims 26, 27, 29 and 30 as being anticipated by Himmeroder (U.S. Patent No. 5,404,640) and the rejection of Claims 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanemitsu '547 in view of Rolf (U.S. Patent No. 5,806,358), is hereby requested.

As stated in the Interview Summary, "Mr. Krinsky proposed amendments to claims 1 and 2 concerning positioning of the flange adjacent to the centric bore and a tool movement from a blank exterior toward the centric bore in order to form the flange. The proposed amendments if filed would overcome the prior [art] to Kanemitsu". Claims 1 and 2 have been amended concerning the positioning of the flange adjacent the centric bore. New independent Claims 31 and 32 include the subject matter of current Claims 1 and 2 and language related to tool movement from the blank exterior toward the centric bore in order to form the flange, support for which is found at paragraphs [00026] and [00027] of the Specification.

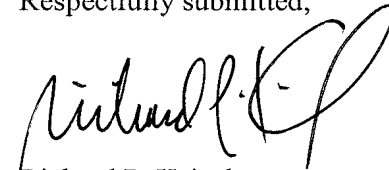
Thus, amended independent Claims 1 and 2 are considered to have overcome the above rejections. Moreover, independent Claims 1, 2, 31 and 32 are considered to be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested. Claims 15, 26 and 29 have been amended to comport with the changes to Claims 1 and 2.

Claims 4 and 6-30 depend from either independent Claim 1 or 2 and are considered to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 or 2 and for their own limitations as well, and such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-32 and the application are considered to be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (808/44878).

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Amendments to and Listing of Claims

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